UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

March 26, 2015

Bruce Everetts
Office of Site Evaluation
Division of Remediation Management
Bureau of Land
Illinois EPA

Mr. Everetts:

This is to request for Illinois EPA to identify the State's appropriate, relevant, and applicable requirements (ARARs) for the Operable Unit 2 Pilsen Soils Residential Site, located in Chicago, Illinois.

The residential assessment areas is an approximately 164-acre residential, commercial, and industrial area of the Lower West Side (Pilsen) neighborhood of the City of Chicago, Cook County, IL (Assessment Area; Figure 1-1). The Assessment Area was divided into three residential subareas: Res1, Res2, and Res3.

The Site consists of residential areas identified as Res 1 and Res 2. Res1 is an approximately 14-acre semi-rectangular area in the southwest corner of the Assessment Area, bound by West 19th Street to the north, South Allport Street to the east, West 21st Street to the south, and South Loomis Street to the west (Attached Removal Site Evaluation Report Figure 2-1). The geographical coordinates for the approximate center of Res1 are 41° 51' 18.40" North latitude and 87° 39' 33.78" West longitude. H. Kramer borders Res1 to the south. The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal is located approximately 0.5 mile to the south.

Res2 is an approximately 40-acre arc-shaped area extending approximately 680 feet northward from the northwest corner of Res1 to West 18th Street and approximately 765 feet eastward from the southeast corner of Res1 to South May Street (Attached Removal Site Evaluation Report Figure 2-1). The geographical coordinates for the approximate center of Res2 are 41° 51' 23.23" North latitude and 87° 39' 26.70" West longitude. The north/west border of Res2 curves southward from the intersection of West 18th Street and South Throop Street to the intersection of West 21st Street and South May Street.

- Average Res1 surface soil total lead and fine-grained lead concentrations (0-6 inches bgs, not including garden, drip zone, duplicate, or replicate samples) were 1,545 and 1,597 mg/kg, respectively (N=14). Average Res1 subsurface soil total lead and fine grained lead concentrations (6-18, 6-21, and 18-24, inches bgs, not including garden and duplicate samples) were 1,424 and 1,740 mg/kg, respectively (N=5). These average concentrations exceed the 2014 EPA residential soil RML for lead of 400 mg/kg.

- Average Res2 surface soil total lead and fine grained lead concentrations (0-6 inches bgs, not including garden, drip zone, duplicate, or replicate samples) were 1,054 and 1,244 mg/kg, respectively (N=27). Average Res2 subsurface soil total lead and fine grained lead concentrations (6-12, 6-14, 6-24, and 12-24 inches bgs, not including garden or duplicate samples) were 660 and 723 mg/kg, respectively (N=6). These average concentrations exceed the 2014 EPA residential soil RML for lead of 400 mg/kg.

We are seeking to conduct a response action under CERCLA; because of the presence of lead (CERCLA hazardous substance) in surface soil above the EPA Removal Management Level of 400 mg/kg, its actual or potential exposure to residents, and threat of release and migration off-site due to: 1) weather conditions (wind, rain/runoff) and 2) residential use.

We would like to receive the ARARs response from you within the next 30 days from the date of this letter. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 312-886-4314 or at Mendoza.ramon@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Ramon C. Mendoza
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
Superfund Division, Removal Branch 2 SE-5J
77 W. Jackson
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Cc: Site File

Attached: Site Assessment Report for Pilsen Ares Soil Site : Residential